



FAMOUS
MONSTERS
#144
\$1.25 US\$4

FAMOUS MONSTERS



**500
FREE
PRIZES**

SEE
PAGE 45

**MYSTERIOUS MR. MUMMY
MONSTROUS MELTING MAN
FM DISCOVERY 1000-FACED FAN!**



CLOTHES ENCOUNTER



The reason our Favorite Alien is red-faced is because he left home without a thing to wear. "I didn't planet that way," he told FM, "But when I saw what Earthlings look like I became saucer-eyed!"

SPEAKING OF MONSTERS



THE NECKS VOICE YOU HEAR...

THE NECKS VOICE will be that of the Vamp of the Video Scream (above)—the well-remembered terrorvision Mistress of the Macabre: Vampira! She's pictured as her fans remember her best—showing off her sex appeal with a (gaspl) throaty squeal!

Vampira taking her own breath away sets the style for this issue for we've assembled (from the hodies we took from the graves, the gallows—anywhere! to quote a certain Dr. Frankenstein) a smorgashlood of treats that should delight the jaded appetite of the most jaundiced horror & sci-fi fan.

Right off the bloody bat we have that Man of Parts, the INCREDIBLE MELTING MAN.

And hot on the trail of the Melter, THE MUMMY. (King Kariott as the Ancient Egyptian, Im-ho-tep).

And we hat 1000 with "The Fan of 1000 Faces"†

We're going places....come along for the slayride!

*Forrest
Anderson*



FEARFUL ADDITIONS TO FOREGOING
BEEES, ANTS, FEAR, FOG, MATI, PREY, RATS and "1941", all mentioned in FM 142
 Others: **GOLO, IF, X-15** & "1984".

OLIANA CALA
 Salem, New Hamp.

APPRECIATE OGIF

Dear Mr. Ackerman:
 I've been a fan & reader of FM for over 10 years. On a 1976 trip to England, I purchased 2 copies of the death certificate of "Dracula" author Bram Stoker from the General Register office in London. If possible, I would like to donate a copy to your collection. Having been a fan of horror films, it would be an honor for me if you would allow me to send you a copy of Stoker's death certificate. Thank you for all the great work you have done for fantasy film fans everywhere.

JOE HAMMILL
 National City, Calif.

Thank you, Joe: the certificate will be on display ever after in my Fantasy Museum—Forry.

ANTI-FOREIGN FILMS

In recent issues you have been featuring films from foreign movies I dislike them because they neither remind me of past films I have seen nor give me glimpses of films I might see in the future.

"WARCHILO"
 Chicago, Ill.

I'll tell you the truth, "Warchild", this is one of the strangest complaints I have ever received in the whole history of FM (and the only one of its kind). To my mind it's as tho no one would wish to see any skills from Lon Chaney's LONDON AFTER MIGHT because it's considered to be a lost film. Lost or foreign, apparently it would make no difference to you, the criterion being that if there is no possibility of your seeing the picture you don't want to know about it. Frankly, I'm exactly the opposite. Since I may never see THE WIZARD OR THE STAR ROVER OR THE YOUNG OLIANA OR OUR HEAVENLY BOODIES OR THE GREAT BET OR THE ARK, I'm fanatic to see anything I can on them. I think, "Warchild", you're in a minority of about a million to one. Not a value judgment, just a curious observation.—FJA

MORE "FEAR BY FOUR"

Once again FM has outdone itself. Your 20th Anniversary issue was super. Thanks for the STARSHIP INVASIONS article. It's great to know that Chris Lee is still with us even tho his Dracula is no more.

As to the Fear By Four article, here are a few additions and one correction: PYRO doesn't belong. The release title was PYRO, THE THING WITHOUT A FACE. Additions: M (1951 remake of the Lorne classic), SHE (1935 RKO original, not the Hammer classic), THE TRIP (1957 AIP), MR. WU (1927 MGM), ORCA (1977 Paramount), OR NO (James Bond soft-thriller from U.A.). So where is my flying saucer? (In your flying kitchen cupboard.)

DOUG LAMOREUX
 Oakota, Ill.

WANTED! More Readers Like



GLEN NEIMAN

GHOUL GIRL

Thank you so much for a truly spectacular 20th Anniversary issue! It was terrific! Could you do your readers a big favor? Could you find & print the address of the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films? On their awards show they mentioned that they'd like the viewers to join up... unfortunately they failed to show the address.

LAURA MUELLER
 No Address

For information on how you may become a voting member of the Academy of Sci-Fi, Fay & Horror Films, request details from Or. Donald A. Reed, 334 W. 54th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90037. Please mention that you obtained his address from FM and be sure to include a stamped envelope addressed to yourself.

THIS ISSUE DEDICATED TO



COLETTE SIMPSON

This Young Lady lives Way Far off in ... Rhodesia! Her 2 pet passions in life are CHRISTOPHER LEE and FAMOUS MONSTERS. We regret we can't send her Mr. Lee but we are happy to supply her FM each issue. We hope some day she may be able to come to the USA and pay the Ackemonster a visit at the Imagi-Movie Museum.

MADE HIM "ILL"

In #142 I was looking at your Fang Mail (which is one of the first things I do) because I had sent 2 previous letters, hoping that one of them might be there, and saw the name "Jeff Bauer" which is also my name. But unfortunately under the name was Pittsburgh, Pa. and I'm from Chicago, Ill.

JEFF BAUER
 Chicago, Ill.

IT'S ABOUT CRIME

The 20th Anniversary issue was fantastic and well worth the \$2.50. I was thrilled to see the color foto of Peter Cushing (my favorite actor) on the foldout cover. I also liked the color foto of the Creature on the back cover.

I would like to tell you about a funny thing that happened. I was in the library a few weeks ago looking thru some horror books, when someone I knew came over to me. He laughed and asked me why I was interested in horror books. A bit later I walked over to him to see what he was reading. On the cover in big letters was "Crimes of Horror"!!!

I have been with FM since I was about 13. I'm now 28.
KEN GILBERT
 Peabody, Mass.

WANTED! More Readers Like



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FAMOUS MONSTERS

Incorporating MONSTER WORLD ®

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HE'LL MELT YOUR HEART

if he doesn't eat it first!

OOZE was the cover story on the first issue of *Weird Tales* magazine in March 1923. Twenty-five years later it was SLIME. Some time later in FM 57 to be exact, THE GREEN SLIME was discovered to be not exactly a jello good fellow, and way back in our 19th issue the late Basil Rathbone mesmerized Vincent Price into another fine mess (to quote Oliver Hardy) in POE'S TALES OF TERROR.

More recently in the climax of THE DEVIL'S RAIN the players were seen to dissolve like jelly beans in the noonday sun of Death Valley in the film's finale.

Finally, we come to the latest in the continuing saga of soggy horrors, THE INCREDIBLE MELTING MAN, whose sorry story follows.

—FJA



There is No Truth to the Rumor that this is an Untouched Foto of that Famous Comedian "Mellie" Serie. It's Actor Alex Rober as Col. Steven West—after Rick Baker has given him one of his Famous Beauty Treatments.



When they asked Astronaut Steve West (left) how he'd like to take a rocket flight to Saturn, he replied, "It has a certain ring to it." But he'd probably have opted for Venus instead if he realized he was going to wind up (right) looking like he'd been dipped in Mercury!

Col. Steven West is one of America's promising young pioneers of deep space. As he hurtles toward Earth after a historic landing on Saturn, Col. West observes the sun thru the gaseous rings of the majestic ringed planet.

Suddenly, the astronaut blacks out while being showered by a series of blinding radiant flashes! A small rivulet of blood slowly trickles from his nostril.

Upon returning to Earth, Steve is hospitalized and diagnosed as having contracted a mysterious cosmic disease, an in-

fection which causes the flesh to actually melt!

For Steve West it marks the beginning of his final countdown. He had astounded the world with his heroic interplanetary feats. Now, humanity would shudder with horror at the mere sight of Steven West, THE INCREDIBLE MELTING MAN!

THIS GUY'S NO DRIP

Altho Alex Rebar stars in the title role of AIP's THE INCREDIBLE MELTING MAN,

the real star of the film is the fabulous makeup by 27-year-old Wizard of Wax, Rick Baker.

The MELTING MAN is heralded as "The First New Horror Craeture", and certainly lives up to its billing as "Rick Baker's greatest creation yet" (emphasis on the yet!).

Baker is fast becoming the most sought after makeup man in Hollywood. His list of credits include THE OCTOMAN (1971), a half-man, half-octopus monstrosity; the double-header gorilla from THE THING WITH 2 HEADS (1972); and the missing link in SCHLOCK (1973) (featuring "Furry" Ackerman).

Rick was also the father of be awful offspring in IT'S ALIVE (1974, rereleased in 1977). It is rumored that more of these blood-curdling brats are on their way via a sequel.

REGAN'S APE CANTINA

Prior to MELTING MAN, Rick drew worldwide attention from his work on 3 major films. First, he collaborated with veteran Dick (Dorian Gray) Smith on THE EXORCIST (1973). Rick's contributions included making a dummy of Linda Blair (not too difficult lately, since she failed to heed FM's advice about exercising good judgment where drugs are concerned) for the scene in which her head revolves 360 degrees. Whew, talk about getting dizzy! He also did the demonic facial makeup for the Princess of Possession.

Next, Rick designed, constructed & played the KING in Dino De Laurentiis' KONG (1976).

But Rick's most recent—and most famous—endeavor is the classic Mos Eisley Cantina creatures from STAR WARS—the most astonishing accumulation of alienabilia this side of the Ackermuseum. Nufsed!

RADIOACTIVE CANNIBAL

Back to the unfortunate Col. West. As you might guess, a MELTING MAN must have a very special diet to keep his strength up. Steve West puts himself on a super-high protein diet—he must feed on other humans to halt the slow deterioration of his own flesh!

DEADLY OUT-PATIENT

After escaping from the hospital supervision of his doctors & friends, our liquefying lad seeks refuge (and victims) in the woods surrounding the hospital and the small community in which it is located.

His voracious need for human cells drives him to devour anyone who crosses his path.

Since Col. West's abnormal appetite is a result of a space project, it is a matter of national security and must be kept secret. Reluctant to obtain help from the local police, West's Doctor Ted Nelson & commanding officer Gen. Perry set out to find their patient.



Another "Melting Milk Man"—Ernest Borgnine at the climax of THE DEVIL'S RAIN.



Vincent Price gets the Wizard of Oz treatment as amused Basil Rathbone looks on during filming of "The Strange Facies in the Case of M. Veidermer" segment of POE'S TALES OF TERROR.



End of THE HIDEOUS SUN DEMON, said to resemble climax of current MELTING MAN.



The Monster Maestro Hansell (awarded an award on the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films Awards ceremony on television)—Rock Baker, putting finishing touches to the latest cookie he's just baked in his Mad Lab. (Alec Reber, Star of AIP's INCREDIBLE MELTING MAN)

The General winds up being Steve's dinner and Dr. Nelson, fearing more ghastly carnage, enlists the aid of the local sheriff to track down the glistening killer.

A STICKY SITUATION

Using a geiger counter, Dr. Nelson & Sheriff Blake follow the MELTING MAN's slimy radioactive trail.

Shortly, he is spotted near the local power plant, and the chase is on! Col. West leads his pursuers thru a maze of pipes, wires, towers, platforms & stairways, where he is finally cornered atop a grated steel ramp at the highest point of the generating station.

The scene (the entire picture, for that matter) is extremely reminiscent of the finale in Robert Clarke's HIDEOUS SUN DEMON (1959). In that film, a scientist also had a slight problem with radiation: when he was exposed to sunlight, he transformed into a reptilian terror. In the end, the monster was trapped on top of a huge oil storage tank and plunged several hundred feet to his merciful death.

That's not exactly what happens in MELTING MAN but suffice it to say that the ending to this picture is a stunning tribute to the artistry of Rick Baker and is worth the price of admission alone!



In 1969 the FIRST MAN INTO SPACE came back with a face like the craters of the Moon and an appetite for blood like Vampires!

END

have a lark with
QUARK
tv's new sky laff of space



Meet Adam Quark, interplanetary trash man
of the (you should pardon the expression)
Garb Age

WHO EVER THOUGHT they'd be milk
ing the Milky Way for laffs?
But that's exactly what's happening
with QUARK!

At last, a program that the critics can call
"trash!" if they wish without being insulting.

QUARK freely admits to being
trashy—"How else," its star asks, would you
describe a program that's based on the misad-
ventures of a collector of cosmic debris?

"A finder of interplanetary flotsam?

"A janitor of space jetsam?

"In plain terms, a galactic garbageman!"

In other words, trash with class.

QUARK may be

—kookie

—quirky

—kinky

—crazy

and as goonie as a Looney Tune

BUT

It's deliberately conceived as a Star Truck full



When they made Alan Callow the Secretary General of Pasma 1 (The United Galaxy Sanitation Patrol's home base), the position obviously went to his head.



Interesting action in segment called "All the Emperor's Quasi-Norms".



Richard Benjamin ages 2 years every hour in "The Old & The Beautiful" segment of quirky comedy.

of yucks so you're jocularly invited to join the Outer Space Laffing Academy.

the cast of cosmic castaways

Space Commander Adam Quark is portrayed by star Richard Benjamin.

Crewmembers of the United Galaxy Sanitation Patrol (UGSP) include:

Twins Tricia & Cyb Barnstable, the co-pilot clones of the galactic garbage scow.

—Ficus (a distant cousin of "The Thing from Another World"): a humanoid plant called a *vegeton*.

—Andy, an android servomechanism created by Quark from cannibalized equipment, scuttled space junk such as bits of bytes, fused circuits, blown fuses, bent wires & other mechanical failures.

—Ergo, the ship's mascot, a Cyclopean protoplasmic mess weighing 10 pounds with a thousand pound disposition: nasty.

—Gene/Jean, a chief engineer with crazy mixed up chromosomes who one minute is *mucho macho* and the next moment a regular Cinder-Fella.

space station 1

Residents of S.S. Perma One, the UGSP's home away from home in outer space, include:

The station's Superintendent-in-Chief, Otto Palindrome Conrad Janis).

The Head (Alan Caillou), so called perhaps because his bat size (if they could find a chapeau big enough to drape his dome) is 36. For a woman's waist that would be a trim figure but for a man's head it could only be best described as, er, "beady".

Dink (Bobby Porter), Palindrome's assistant, a small hairy creature who beeps instead of talking. He is a gravulite, in case you want to order one from your neighborhood Spacial Pet Shop.

Chief Villains: The Gorgons.

source of comedy

"May the Source Be With You", the opening episode of the miniseries, introduced a number of the foregoing characters, such as the plant-man First Officer Ficus, a Spockian character (without the eccentric ears) who possesses neither human emotions nor feelings. . . The Head (his artificial dome is composed of a combination of rubber & balsa wood, weighs 3 pounds and takes 2 hours in the makeup chair to apply, and the actor who portrays him has previously been seen in Jules Verne's *JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH* and the Cyborg series *The \$6 Million Man*) . . . Dink, the pixilated droid—

And a variety of oddball (as well as screwball) characters including:

GALACTIC CREW



The clones (foreground), Andy the Robot (background), Ficus the Vegeton (right) & Gene/Jean the Transmute (left).

Humanoids.

Quasi-norms.

And multi-peds.

Oh, one thing we forgot to tell you that you'll be interested to know:

Ficus, the vegetable that resembles a man, has no internal organs. Some might say that, lacking a heart, he's heartless.

But even a potato has eyes.

And every lettuce leaf starts out as a head.

And even artichokes have hearts.

Asked about his roots, Ficus told FM's reporter on the Vegetable Beet:

"I grew out of the ground until I was 18. At that time I got tired of all the kids calling me Dirty Feet so I called in a foot surgeon (via the grapevine) and he performed an unusual operation on me."

And what was that?"

"He snipped me off at the roots. Called it a Low Bottomy."

Ever since, Ficus has been walking around just like human beings.

The funny thing about him is that he doesn't carrot-all for humor.

Also, having no sense of shame, he can never blush a deep red.

Even an onion couldn't make him cry.

But YOU—you just may die laughing at Ficus

& Dink & The Head & the merry menagerie of mentalicals & extraterrestrials in this cosmic comedy.

There's no doubt about it, QUARK has a special brand of humor. And no matter how low it might sink, you know one thing for sure about a series based on an astronutty garbageman:

THINGS ARE BOUND TO PICK UP!



Left, Clone, Luff Betty 1 & Betty 2 (Tricie & Cyb Semestable)—the Quark Cuties.

**ressurrected from the
sands of time, he lives again—**

THE

MUMMY: IM-HO-TEP

conclusion of filmbook
of classic karloff film



WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE:

In the preceding 6 chapters published in FM143 we have seen the mummified remains of Im-ho-tep, put to death for sacrilege against the ancient Gods of Egypt 3700 years ago, returned to life in the person of mysterious, mesmeric Ardath Bey.

Bey has sent one man insane, murdered another and now plots to possess the soul of the endangered young heroine Helen.

Will he succeed?

Read on—!

CHAPTER 7

Under Im-ho-tep's Spell

Helen returned to the hotel as mysteriously as she had left it. Frank and Muller were waiting. She put Frank at ease by telling him she had gone for a stroll.

"I can't be shut up all the time!" she said sharply. "—and, besides, I took the dog with me."

"Well, where is the dog?" Frank asked, looking around.

"He . . . he's dead."

"But how?" he urged.

"I don't know . . . I don't remember—but I can see it now—standing on poor Woolfram's back—a white cat!"

"A white cat—the cat goddess, Bast! The





**CHARTER MEMBER
OF THE
CLAYBOY CLUB**



Boris Karloff (center) at ancient funeral ceremony.



With the Cat Goddess Bast in the background, Ardath Bey kneels before the Pool of Remembrances to conjure up a vision of the pest.

goddess of evil sendings! Just what happened—try to remember, Helen."

"I don't want to remember—"

"We know you were with Ardath Bey—Helen—Helen, I'm trying to help you—protect you. We all are!" exclaimed Frank. Her expression suddenly changed to terror. She held out her hands imploringly to him.

"Don't let me go again—I'll try to get away—but you mustn't let me—no matter what I say or do. There's death there for me . . . and life for something else inside me that isn't me. But it's alive too and fighting for life! Save me from it, Frank—*save me!*"

He folded her in his arms. "You're going to be alright—now that you've asked for help—I'll never leave you alone—I'll get Mrs. Muller down here with you—I'll stay here till the doctor comes—and then we'll take you to my house. Oh, Helen, it's been such torture—I love you so—"

"She's too weak to be moved except to the hospital," the doctor told Muller later in the week. "It's very serious. I've failed to make a diagnosis—"

Mrs. Muller joined them, motioning to Frank. "Frank—go to her—and don't be angry with me—I couldn't resist her."



Funeral procession 3750 years ago. Can you spot Karlott in this shot?

Upon entering Helen's room he was astounded to see her completely dressed and out of bed.

"Helen, you shouldn't have done this. They shouldn't have let you—" he began.

"Just this once—perhaps the last time," she said solemnly.

"But you're going to get well—then I know I can make you love me—I know I can make you happy."

"I do love you, Frank. I'm trying to prove it—because I'd rather die than live and lose you," she sighed.

"But you're going to live—we're not going to lose each other," he insisted as Muller entered the bedroom.

"Don't scold me—just female vanity—I wanted to look my best again."

"Ah, you know more than I realized you knew," Muller stated quietly.

"What do you mean?" Frank urged.

"Her impulses to go to . . . him. The pull is too strong to withstand and live," he said sadly. "She knows the moment she stops struggling he will give her strength to return to him."

"But I don't want to lose my own mind—and

be someone else—someone I hate!" Helen cried.

"My dear," Muller said, sitting beside her, "while you were growing worse—we've tried to find him and failed. The next time the call comes, go to him!"

The two men left the bedroom and entered the study.

"What can we do now?"

"We can do no more, Frank. Ardatb has beaten me. The next time he calls to her, we must follow her . . . then we'll destroy him!"

Out of deep emotion Frank lifted the charm from around his neck and hung it on Helen's doorknob. He did not realize that it was powerless to affect her—and that later in the night Im-bo-tep would see the unprotected, sleeping victim and Frank would awaken from his slumber gasping for air.

Frank fell to the floor but clawed his way toward the door handle from which hung the mystic amulet. Thru sheer determination, with all of his remaining strength, he grasped at the necklace and fell unconscious—the necklace clenched in his hand.

Im-bo-tep cursed.

The necklace had saved Frank.

CHAPTER 8
The Wrath of Isis



Noble Johnson leads a reluctant Zhe Johann toward an unknown fate.



"Behold!" Ardeth Bay tells Zita. "The past is not dead, our love has not died."

Helen, dressed in the garb of an Egyptian Princess, opened her eyes to find herself in the room of the Princess in the Cairo Museum.

"Where are we? This is my bed but this is not the temple nor my father's palace," she cried.

"Do not look, Anck-es-en-Amon, do not be afraid." The voice of Im-ho-tep soothed. He was also garbed in royal raiment.

"I was afraid. When you were kneeling beside my bed—a veil came over my eyes—darkness—"

"Your last memory of me in the hour of your death—3700 years ago!"

"No man has ever suffered for a woman as you suffered for me. And now that the gods have forgiven us..." She moved to embrace him. But he evaded her touch.

"No—no—not yet. Your soul is in a mortal body, renewed many times since we loved in Thebes of Old. But that love is not for us again until the great change.

"Look," he said, leading her to the glass-enclosed mummy case. "Look and wonder!"

"It is a figure of myself! It is my coffin made by my father against my death. What mummy has usurped my eternal resting place?" Her voice rose in anger.

"It is thy dead shell. I tried then to raise this body—I could raise it now. But it would be a mere thing that moved at my will—without a soul."

He struck at the glass with his ring and reached into the case. Anck-es-en-Amon watched—baffled. Im-ho-tep placed the mummy in a corner, then reached for a lighted lamp.

"It was not only this body that I loved—but thy soul. I destroy this lifeless thing. Thou shalt take its place but for a few moments, and then... rise again even as I have risen!" So saying, he stooped and set fire to the mummy.

He took her into the embalming room. There, the Nubian, stripped to the waist, stirred a large cauldron of fluid.

"Im-ho-tep! This is the place of embalming! It is not lawful for me, a Priestess of Isis, to see or touch an unclean thing!"

"Come to the altar of Anubis," he ordered. "The time has come for the final prayers."

She shrank back in growing fear. "What have I to do with Anubis?"

"The ancient rites must be performed over thy body. And then I will read the great spell by which Isis brought Osiris back from the grave. And thou shalt rise again!"

Helen's face turned to stark horror as she realized his plan.

"No!—No!—I'm alive! I'm young! I won't die! I loved you once but now you belong with the dead! I am Anck-es-en-Amon but—I-I'm somebody else too! I want to live—even in this strange new world!"



Four Fabulous Fotos of Boris Karloff as mummified & revived by the legendary makeup man of the 30s, Jack Pierce.





JACK PIERCE himself adding one last wrinkle to Kerloff's makeup



Before Godfathers there were Pharaoh Fathers. Offstage, the Pharaoh Father is saying to Boris: "Hey, Bo, Whaddya hear from de mapp?"

"For thy sake I was buried alive," he said, his tone heavy with menace. "I ask of thee only a moment of agony. Only so we can be united."

Her frightened eyes turned toward the Nubian stirring the embalming fluid. "The bath of Natron. You shall not plunge my body into that!"

"Let the deed be done!" Im-ho-tep cried.

The Nubian servant moved toward her, a gleaming blade in his hand. She tried to flee but he grasped her wrist. She threw herself on her knees, pleading with him.

"Don't kill me! Let me go! I'm a Priestess of Isis! Save me from that mummy!" she cried to the Nubian. But her words did not sway him.

Infuriated by her unexpected resistance, Im-ho-tep imperiously raised his hand and turned the magic scarab upon the cowering girl. The Nubian, frightened, backed away from the trembling form. In turning his power upon the woman, Im-ho-tep had loosened his grip upon the Nubian, and the terrified servant seized the opportunity to flee.

Im-ho-tep's power was great. His ancient love rose, moving toward him in a trance-like state. "I no longer fear you. Do with me what you will..."

* * *

Muller found the unconscious Frank clutching the charm.

"Frank! Frank!" The young man started to awaken. "She's gone to him. He must be in the museum. Now I know his horrible plan. He is going to kill her and make her a living mummy like himself!"

* * *

Im-ho-tep, High Priest of the Temple of the Sun at Karnak, raised the knife which would take the life of Helen Grosvenor and free the imprisoned soul of Anck-es-en-Amon, his beloved.

"The gods will receive into the underworld the spirit of Anck-es-en-Amon... but not for long. Osiris will release thy soul."

She lay prone upon a slab, asleep, yet aware—and beside her, spread out so he could read the sacred text, lay the Scroll of Thoth.

"You shall rest from life like the setting sun in the west—but you shall dawn anew in the East as the first rays of Amon-Ra dispel the shadows."

In the street outside, the two men alighted from their car and raced into the building.

Muttering in ancient Egyptian, Im-ho-tep raised his hand aloft for the deathstroke!

"Helen!" cried Frank. "Helen!"

A sudden change came over the girl. She wrenched herself free from the mummy's grasp and fled to the huge stone idol of Isis. There she knelt and flung up petitioning arms toward the statue towering above her. Im-ho-tep moved behind her—his knife poised to strike.

"Isis!" she cried in a voice of utter terror.

"Holy Maiden... I was thy consecrated vestal and I broke my vows. Save me now! Teach me



Ardeth Bey offers prayer to God of Ancient Egypt.

the ancient summons—the holy spells I have forgotten! I call up thee—as of old!"

The mummy emitted an impotent snarl and struggled, like a man bound by invisible shackles.

He turned his wrath upon the intruders. He extended the hand wearing his scarab ring and muttered an ancient, terrible curse. The men shrank back, covering their faces. Dr. Muller held up the protective amulet.

Im-ho-tep did not see the statue of Isis raise her stone hand, nor the flash of brilliant light which enveloped him and the Scroll of Thoth. The knife fell with a clatter from his bony hand. And, from that same bony hand, following the fallen knife, the fingers began likewise to fall; the forearm and then the whole frame of the thing that had walked among men crumpled in a heap at the statue's feet—a small pyramid of empty clothing from which arose a little wisp of brownish dust which slowly settled!

"Frank—he has dragged her back to ancient Egypt! Call her!" Muller cried. "Call her back! Her love for you may bridge the centuries!"

Frank ran to Helen as he shouted—his outstretched arms and outflung words making the



Ardeth looks ardently at Princess, who doesn't exactly hold him at Bay.



Tea Break for Top. We're not positive but we think the lady is the Mother of Karloff's Daughter Sara.



Then (3700 years ago) as now, Egyptians engaged in Celebrectory. Boris is messaging Zita's back.

same appeal. "Helen, come back! It's Frank! Frank! Come back!"

Muller watched over them until he saw color return to her cheeks and the light of recognition to her eyes. Then Frank's name came to her lips and her warm white arms curled round him. Only then did Muller turn away.

He busied himself over the remains on the floor as he tried to close his unprivileged ears to the mingled sobs of the 2 youngsters. He stooped and, using a pencil to poke in the debris at his feet, drew aside the scarab ring which had once adorned the right index finger of Dr. Ardath Bey. After being repeatedly immersed in many powerful disinfectant liquids, you may be sure, the legendary ring may be viewed today by those faithful filmonster fans who make the pilgrimage to the Museum of Imagi-Movie Memorabilia in Hollywood, Karloffornia; curator, Pharaoh Jai Ankh-er-man.

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH KING TUT

By

Dr. Walter J. Daugherty, F.R.A.S.

Editor's Note: Yes, Dr. Daugherty is the same gentleman whose name & fame is familiar to all readers of FM as genial Walt Daugherty, "Photographer of the Mon-Stars". He also happens to be recognized as one of the world's leading authorities on Egyptology. During the 1963 King Tut exhibit in Los Angeles, which was under the personal supervision of the Inspector of Antiquities for the Egyptian Government, Dr. Daugherty had the Inspector as his

houseguest, introduced him at all his public lectures and even substituted for him on several occasions while he was hospitalized for 10 days. "Our" Walt was the only person permitted to be present while the priceless material was being repacked for shipping to its homeland and the only one allowed to photograph the treasures outside the protective cases in the County Museum. FM is very fortunate that, altho Dr. Daugherty has a full lecture calendar for the next quarter of a year in conjunction with the exhibit, he has managed to take time off from his busy schedule to share some behind-the-scenes & background information with us. He tells us:

THE STAR WARS of the archaeological world is what they are calling the King Tut-Ankh-Amen exhibit that is enthralling millions across the USA at this time. This fabulous display of the splendor of Ancient Egypt has a 2-year stay in the United States which began in November 1976 and ends this December. The STAR WARS quote is because literally thousands of people are queuing up in all kinds of weather to view the exhibit in lines similar to those for STAR WARS.

There is a very close relationship between King Tut's tomb and almost all of the American Mummy pictures that have been produced since and including THE MUMMY with Boris Karloff. In each of the Mummy pictures the undeniable connection apparent is such things as the use of the Egyptian names associated with Tut; curses which were first brought to the public's attention with the discovery of the

tomb on 4 November 1922; and almost every mummy flick has props & background material visible as props which are either exact copies or stylized copies of many of the artifacts found in the tomb which were buried over 3300 years ago with the boy Pharaoh for his afterlife.

When the tomb of Tut-Ankh-Amen was discovered by American archaeologist Howard Carter, who was sponsored by Lord Carnovan of England, it proved to be the only tomb untouched by grave robbers ever found in the valley in the Land of the Nile. The treasures recovered from this find in the Valley of the Kings have never been surpassed in the history of archaeology. The gold found with this tomb weighs hundreds of pounds and it is estimated that the value of that gold at present day prices would exceed \$6 million. The innermost of 3 coffins holding the mummy 6'1½" long and is from 2¼ to 3¼ mm. in thickness and is made of pure gold inlaid with countless semi-precious gems.

The entire contents of the tomb became the sole property of the Government of Egypt and it is only on a few rare occasions that they have allowed a traveling exhibit of a number of the artifacts to go to other parts of the world. This present exhibit of 55 pieces from the collection and an exhibit that toured the US from 1961 to 1963 containing 31 items are the only 2 exhibits of King Tut material ever seen in the United States.

Prior to the 1932 Universal Classic picture there were several vintage films on this theme made and most of them little-known because they were early silents that found no wide distribution. In 1909 THE MUMMY OF KING RAMSES was released. In 1911 Thanhouser made THE MUMMY wherein a beautiful Egyptian girl emerged from the coffin when she was restored to life via electricity (as Colin Clive would do to the Bride of Frankenstein many years later—only not with such beautiful results). Another Mummy rose from its sarcophagus the same year, in England, when a man dreamed that an ancient Egyptian returned to life. Around 1922 KING TUT-ANKH-AMEN'S 8th WIFE made her appearance; the picture was concerned with a nonexistent curse from the past.

When once again you see, on the Late, Late Show, any of the more familiar Mummy movies, keep in mind a pertinent fact: whether it be THE MUMMY'S CURSE, THE MUMMY'S GHOST, THE MUMMY'S HAND, THE MUMMY'S SHROUD, THE MUMMY'S TOMB or any of the other Egyptian "epics" starring Kharis-to-pher Lee, "Horus" Karloff, Lon Chaney Jr., Eddie Powell or Tom Tyler, among the many motion picture personalities who in one fashion (ancient Egyptian) or another have been enshrined in shrouds, the film itself has in some way been influenced by the tomb of Tut-Ankh-Amen, the greatest & richest find in the history of Archaeological science.



One for Your Scrapbook of Major Macabre Memories.



Karl Freund (standing, hat) directs Scrofi Scene.

BRRRRTHDAY WITCHES

many harpy returns

ON BEHALF of Filmmonster, in the months of April, May & June **FAMOUS MONSTERS** extends Congratulations to the Famous Personalities on these pages. If an asterisk (*) appears by the individual's name, Your Editor will be in a position to forward YOUR Birthday Card to Him or Her and he volunteers to do so free of charge as long as you do not take advantage of the offer. If FM receives a complaint from any actor or actress or director that they were asked to send fotos or sign autographs or answer questions, we will reluctantly have to discontinue this service. Please do not be the one to spoil it for everybody. Be a Good Monster and send a Birthday Card only to the Star(s) of your choice.

Address Birthday Cards c/o Ferry Adelman, 2495 Glenbow Ave., Hollywood, CA 90027. And if anyone knows the birthday of someone they feel should be included in future calendars, Ferry would appreciate the date being called to his attention.



ORSON WELLES
Necromancy
May 6



MARTIN KOSLECK*
House of Horrors
May 24



ROGER CORMAN*
Death Sport 2020
April 5



FAITH DOMERGUE
This Island Earth
June 16



BARRY ATWATER*
The Night Stalker
May 18



CHRISTOPHER LEE*
Dracula
May 27



VINCENT PRICE*
Dr. Phibes
May 27



PETER CUSHING*
Baron Frankenstein
May 26



DICK SMITH*
Exorcist
June 26



RAY HARRYHAUSEN*
Sinbad/Imhotep/Jason
June 26

SKY-FI & SKEERY STUFF

the shapes
of things
to come



IT LIVES AGAIN! (Son of IT'S ALIVE!) will give Monster Maker Rick Baker (the Jack Pierce of his time) the opportunity to make the breath of all horror fans come in knickerbockers.

"How's that?" you say. "Knickerbockers?"
Why, yes. Short pants.

* * * * *

THE GREAT ISAAC ASIMOV & space/science artist Robert McCall are collaborating on a fabulous scientifiilm feature taking place around the year 4000!

HOLOCAUST 2000 is the title by which FM's overseas readers will recognize what we in the USA will see as THE CHOSEN, a futuristic occult film starring Kirk Douglas, who also stars in THE FURY, a fright film employing the

It's the Leetoid from the Void, the animated escapee from Max Factor in THE ALIEN FACTOR. (Creature made & animated by Ernie Farina.)



The horned lizard man is the Green
Demon from THE DEVIL GOD. Makeup
by Fred Glen Ray & Bill Placko.



Dracula 1978: Eighty years after Bram Stoker created the Thirsty Count, Frank Langella is leaving New York audiences (blood) thirsty for more with his spine-tingling performance on the Broadway stage.

makeup wizardry of Oscar-winner William Tuttle.

First there was DEATH RACE 2000. Then DEATH SPORT 2020. Next: DEATH WORLD. (Roger Corman, you'll be the death of us! But we love you.)

the monsters are coming

AIP has acquired the rights to the best-selling AMITYVILLE HORROR.

From cop to shrink is the change of pace for Telly "Kojak" Savalas as he moves from Tellyvision to the big screen to portray a psychiatrist who doesn't shrink from an encounter with evil incarnate as he treats a female patient who is possessed by a demonic entity.

Jon Davidson asked your Editor to do a cameo shot in PIRANHA but he found out there was something fishy about it: the role required FJA to be eaten alive under water. "Too fat for that," Forry told Jon; "I'm afraid I'd float!" Forry has accepted a cameo role, however, from Steve Barkett for his horrors of Atomageddon film, THE AFTERMATH. Remember when Forry was "keeping the specimen happy" in THE TIME TRAVELERS? Bit part in THE AFTERMATH will be a bit like that.

The fright of NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD will live again in its sequel DAWN OF THE LIVING DEAD.



Doug Beebe's stop-motion spider attacks actress Pamela Bottero in PLANET OF DINOSAURS. Frankly, Pam wishes the spider would stop its motion!



Director Don Doherty makes last minute adjustment to the Inerbyce, played by Larry Schieker in *THE ALIEN FACTOR*.

The tremendous lineup of creature features includes **HORROR OF THE ZOMBIES**, **THE HAWKLINE MONSTER**, **WOLFPAN**, **THE LEGEND OF THE WOLF WOMAN**, **FRANKENSTEIN'S CASTLE OF FREAKS**, **KILLER SORCERESS**, **THE FIRE DEMON**, **THE FLAME MONSTER**, **MONSTER MIDWAY** and . . . just plain **MONSTER**.

MONSTER concerns a legendary lagoonish amphibian which inhabits a polluted lake in Colombia and occasionally surfaces to seek food on the land. John Carradine & Keenan Wynn are among the actors involved with the monster and there's a Latin-type actress who is a witch and narrowly escapes the fate of most witches: being burned alive at the stake!

the big parade

And still they come, the horror pix & sf flicks. **MISSILE X**, formerly **CRUISE MISSILE**.

The multi-million dollar catastrophe spectacular, **METEOR**.

The multi-million dollar **STAR WARS** aftermaths, **WAR IN SPACE** (Japanese) & **STARCRASH** (Italian). Many years ago the young man who is now directing the latter was



An intent Alien attacks Erian Wolfe in Firebird International's **THE BRAIN LEECHES**.



Watch Near Future Issue of FM for the Fascinating Story of this Paradise International Production!

one of FM's earliest Foreign Correspondents!

Disney's Big Dollar Spacetacular will be **SPACE STATION 1**.

The producers estimate the budget on legendary L. Ron Hubbard's **REBELS OF THE STARS** will touch \$25 million. New World's Production of A.E. van Vogt's **COMPUTERWORLD** calls for an out of this world budget.

You can watch, if you are Ufo-minded, for **SKYWATCH ... AND BLUEBOARD ...** and **FOES**.

Armchair astronauts may make a **SPACE MISSION TO A LOST PLANET** or fight the **HELLS ANGELS FROM MARS ...** or hope that **SPACE VAMPIRES** know enough about Transylvanian lore to be properly put off by crosses!

Actor George Nader's first novel (following in the footsteps of actor-turned-author Tom

Tryon) an April 28 release from Putnam called **CHROME**. It's a futuristic tome about Terra two centuries hence when Earth is almost a lifeless planet.

Fresh from his frightening performance in **ZOLTAN, THE HOUNDS OF DRACULA**, Reggie Nalder is being sought for cast of **DAUGHTERS OF DRACULA**, potential Barbara Steele—Martine Beswick co-starrer. **NOSFERATU** is being remade.

Richard Crenna plays an astronomer who warns Phoenix that a comet is about to crash into it in the made-for-TV 3-hour disaster film **FIRE IN THE SKY**. Sci-fi fans only hope the celestial visitor doesn't do its nosedive before Labor Day because that's when the World SF Convention is scheduled to be held in Phoenix! Some fireworks if the fans & the comet collide at the same time! (We wonder: would the fans rise ... Phoenix-like ... from the ashes?)

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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

SPECIAL EFFECTS

5-STAR CINEMIRACLES

4 STARS are as high as ratings of excellence usually go. But, when a film rises above & beyond even the extraordinary, then extraordinary designations & awards have to be designed for it.

METROPOLIS, Fritz Lang's 1926 vision of the 60 million population super city of 2026, was perhaps the first 5-Star special effects film.

KING KONG (the first KONG, of course, the true KONG; the 8th Wonder of the World created by Cooper & Schoedsack, O'Brien & Delgado) rated the 5th star.

In modern times, 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY and STAR WARS qualified. It was rewarding to see STAR WARS, a film whose stars were Special Effects receive the enthusiasm of the voting members of the American Film Institute as one of the 10 Best Pictures of All Time . . . and, on TV, see it cheered by a jam-packed audience including Steven Spielberg, Fay Wray, George Lucas, Gary Kurtz and THE PRES. OF THE U.S.

after the odyssey

Stunned audiences, a decade ago, felt they had seen the ultimate in A SPACE ODYSSEY. In fact, it was billed as "The Ultimate Trip".

Douglas Trumbull's next venture into space didn't outdo the effects of "2001" but Trumbull by no means slackened his pace with the interplanetary effects he created for SILENT RUNNING.

"The magic Douglas Trumbull brought to the motion picture screen by his special photographic effects for 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY," it was recorded, "reached dimensions previously unapproached. Yet the visual effects he created & supervised for CLOSE ENCOUNTERS are, in his own words, 'an extension' of that."

An extension of "that"?

How extended can one get?

How far out? How fabulous? What's the result if you voyage to the end of space (even

if only in your imagination) and then, paradoxically, want to go beyond?

Doug Trumbull has pretty well answered that question in *CLOSE ENCOUNTERS*. Under the supervision—the super vision—of Steven Spielberg.

From the start," says Spielberg, "Trumbull was my only choice for the job." But Spielberg was concerned: might he be unwilling to create special effects for others since, following his triumphant contribution to Kubrick's film, he had turned to filmmaking himself as a director and designer of outer space hardware, planetary bodies, etc.? Mightn't Trumbull prefer to reserve his special abilities for the furthering of his own projects?

Spielberg was reluctant to ask Trumbull for fear he might be turned down.

But after trying—and failing—to find another qualified creative talent for the incredible task, Spielberg hesitantly but of necessity returned to his first choice.

Trumbull, "When Steven detailed the project to me I was immediately enthusiastic," he recalls. "I've had it in mind for some years to do a UFO picture myself so Steve's story naturally struck a responsive chord in me. The idea of creating out of this world craft with what Earthly materials we have at our disposal, I found very appealing. Especially the really challenging part—of convincing world-wide audiences that the screen UFOs are real."

They've come a long way, baby, from the by-now-primitive Saucers of *THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL*.

—OF EARTH VS. THE FLYING SAUCERS.

—Of the Metalunars' ships in *THIS ISLAND EARTH*.

—Of even the memorable astronauts' saucer-shaped spacecraft that went out to Altair 4 in *FORBIDDEN PLANET*.

And would you believe that (so I was told: I've yet to see it with my own eyes) the magnificent monumental marvelous miraculous & downright devastating *MOTHERSHIP* in "CESK" is only about 4 feet in diameter?!"

It was last seen sitting, I was told during the press conference in downtown Los Angeles toward the end of November, on the desk of Doug Trumbull.

Sitting? Unprotected?

Not inside a bulletproof glass dome?

Not surrounded by barbed wire? (Electricified, of course.)

Not guarded by plainclothesmen from Lloyds of London, a couple of SWATmen, a robot or two and, just to be on the safe side, a wookiee?

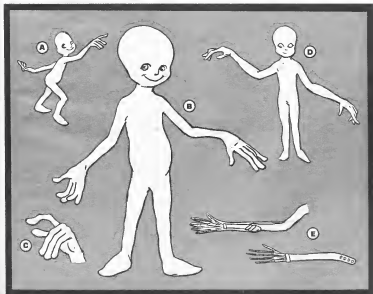
Would they leave the *Kohinoor* diamond unguarded?

Would they neglect to lock the door to the Mint?

Would I put Bela Lugosi's *Dracula* ring on the dashboard of my car and leave the keys in the ignition?

The Mothership, that diamond-ruby-sapphire-emerald-turquoise-tourmaline-only-agate & Mother-of-pearl ship, was the creation of one Greg Jein.

For years I've been encountering him at sci-fi, fantasy & film conventions. He's usually been found behind a dealer's table, smiling, self-effacing, quietly offering such wares as stills & posters. I've had several close encounters with him, always very pleasant. I wonder if I'll ever see him again?—in the role of a huckster, I mean, at an sf or film-con?



Preliminary Sketches from which the "Goblin" Aliens were "Hotched". The Principal Prototype (B). (A) & (D)—Disney-like, Elfin Concepts. (C) Long tapering fingers. (E) The elongated limb extensions.

THE MOTHERSHIP'S ALIEN AMBASSADOR



AFTER all the Dazzling Images of CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND are over, we think this is the Image that will linger longest, fondest, in your Memory: the Enigmatic Alien with the Large Luminous Limpid Eyes that would melt a Xenophobe's Heart (Alien Hater) at 1,000 Paces. Come Back Soon, Sweet Star Creature!

The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, I understand, proudly boasts him as a member.

The Museum of Imaginative Movie Memorabilia is proud to display a Lea Chaney Sr. makeup kit, animation model dinosaurs from KING KONG and WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE WORLD, Fritz Lang's monocle, Peter Lorre's wristwatch, a LOGAN'S RUN gun, a STAR TREK phaser, a head of the Metaluna Mutant, the Ymir from 20 MILLION MILES TO EARTH, a 600-hour recreation of the METROPOLIS robotrix & scores of other props from imaginomovies (see feature about the Museum in issues #143 & 143 of FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILM-LAND magazine). But so far there's a vacant spot with a plaque reading *Created by the Jeinious named Greg. Hint hint!*

dosed encounters

Never before was such special effects work created in such super-secrecy.

Not for DELUGE.

Not for THINGS TO COME.

Not for WAR OF THE WORLDS or THE TIME MACHINE.

Employees were frequently changed in order to avoid leaks.

There is no truth to the rumor that hitmen were given contracts on anyone working on the inside for more than a week.

(That comes with the sequel.)

For the demanding needs of "CE3K", Trumbull & Co. took over an entire 13,500-square-foot building.

The building was converted into a complete movie studio!

Trumbull Films . . . which should have a motto, "We produce the Wonders of the World" (to which reasonably could be added, "This World—and Any Other that

Might be Imagined!")

Installed in the "instant studio" were rooms for.

Developing . . .

Optical printing . . .

Editing.

Elaborate filming "stages" with tracks for "dollies" running not only in the usual direction—horizontally across the floor—but vertically! As one operator said, "Trumbull's dollies sometimes drove us up the walls!"

Electronically operated control booths

A wood shop . . . a metal shop . . . a paint shop—and another shop for constructing miniature sets.

"There also," Trumbull said, "were special areas of the 'studio' created to maintain the intricate cameras & lights and to carry on our continuous experiments with the new processes, techniques & equipment involved."

the wizard of ufo's

Trumbull, the Wizard of Ah's, checked out the tornado sequence in THE WIZARD OF OZ, then set about creating his own tumultuous effect. When those titanic smoky turbulences roll menacingly toward you from the Indiana & Wyoming skies, those aren't clouds of vapor you're seeing, they're under water pigments diffusing in a tank! Truth! Day for Night? This is a case of Water for Sky! And you gotta admit it works, doesn't it? Hair-raisingly scary so.

Shapes were often put on the screen where in actuality no shapes existed.

How was this possible?

Trumbull explained to a couple of Newsweek reporters:

"We used very sophisticated fiber optics & light-scanning techniques to modulate, control & color light on film.

"Putting a UFO on screen is like photographing God.

"But we had to be down on Earth with totally believable



Stunned "kidnapers" emerge from aliens' cityship, ready to renew their citizenship on Earth.



And Spielberg spake, saying "Build me a mountain," and lo! it came to pass that the Devil's Tower was constructed in part for him within a studio sound stage.

visions so the general look we went for was one of motion, velocity & luminosity.

"And brilliance."

Brilliance for certain. In both senses of the word.

Perhaps never before have so many kilowatts been poured into a production.

"What fire was to *THE TOWERING INFERNO*," observed film critic Weaver Wright, "electricity was to *CLOSE ENCOUNTERS*."

Reviewer Spencer Strong saw it in much the same light. "What the sea did for *THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE* and the air for *AIRPORT*, illumination contributed in a large part to the special effectiveness of *CLOSE ENCOUNTERS*."

Jack Kroll & Martin Kessel described the amazing Mazda achievements as "marvelous kinetic light sculptures."

Ah, that Thomas Alva Edison might have lived to see the miracles his light bulbs wrought!

zep code

In 1930 Mia Farrow's Mother, Maureen ("Me Jane, You Tarzan") O'Sullivan was the heroine of a scientific-musical-comedy about a trip by rocketship to Mars called *JUST IMAGINE*. (The Martian aliens were a Jekyll-Hyde race of exotic females & brutish males.)

For the towering stratoscrapers of New York 1980 an entire zeppelin hangar was utilized.

Time marches—or perhaps rockets in the more appropriate term—on and nearly half a century later a boarding house for blimps is once again required. For the climax of "CE3K."

"A huge banger was finally found which once berthed a dirigible in Mobile, Ala.

For A SPACE ODYSSEY Trumbull had constructed a giant 90-foot screen.

For CE3K he exceeded himself by 10 feet:

After draping the walls of the "zep-net" with funeral

black velvet, he instructed his workmen to construct a screen 100 feet wide & close to 13 yards high.

This superscreen was used for front-&-rear projection and for horizon shots.

The next Guinness Book of World Records may possibly include the special effects of "CE3K" for it has been reported that no less than 50 different exposures were required for some of the most spectacular effect frames!

the saucerians

The first 2 aliens seen on the screen were, we understand, marionettes.

The "babies," the "goblins"? Speculation still runs rife and had not been pinned down definitely at time of going to press.

Some say: Mexicans.

Some say: young children—all girls.

One thing has been established for certain: the principal alien is not someone in a suit nor is it an animated armature.

The lovable Otherworld Person is a hydraulically operated puppet!

It was created by Carlo Rambaldi, whom some people have never forgiven for his construction of *Dino Keng*. But this publication's editor feels personally that with the Adorable Alien, Signor Rambaldi has redeemed himself. In fact, won his crown in Heaven.

Trumbull's next special effect project? What Gardner Hunting dreamed of in his novel "The Vicarion" in the 20s: 3-D hologrammatic moving pictures, completely engulfing the spectator, putting the audience in the action.

All aboard

for *Arcturus*, *Aldebaran* & *Andromeda*!

TO ORDER AN EXCLUSIVE WARREN MAGAZINE FILLED WITH EXCITING "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS" PHOTOS AND INSIDE INFO, SEE THE BACK COVER OF THIS ISSUE!

MYSTERY PHOTO #106

EVIL DOER ????

Is HE the scientist bent on revenge in **THE DEVIL DOLL**? The nemesis of the Undead in **MARK OF THE VAMPIRE**?

Forrest J Ackerman when he wakes up in the morning before he's combed his hair and put on his glasses?

We don't want to bury more hints than usual but if you don't know the name of the film in which he played the submarine scientist Dekker, try rearranging this strange sentence's words: MY RUST ALIENS DIE SHOT.



ANSWER MYSTERY PHOTO No.105

This campy monstrosity was from **FLESH (not FLASH) GORDON**. Fans who figured out the previous **VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA** and **BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES** include Jedinto Froggso, Paul Bollner, Doug Smith, Doug Buss Jr., Vinny Carvey, Andres Wester, Joe Berger, Glenn Gillis, Nick Botel, Bill Bailey, John Koyas, Scott Armstrong, Gary Richards, Gus Mendes, Ralph A. Fitzsimons, Tam R. Galla, John Brianon, Brian Manegh, Shelley Wood, Dennis Novak, Allen Blackman, Hal Weaver, Enidila DiGiadinto, Joe Pieretti, David Pilner, Doug Peacock, Gus Marquez, Bram Constanja, Fred Kurtweg II, Paul Lusnia, Billy Cameron, Chas. Mastrendrea, Linda Gordon, James Clyde Shook, Kenny Hunt, Glen Steel, Bob McKinney & Floyd McKinney Jr., John Murphy, David M. Kauri, Steacy McKinley, Linda Buss, Paul Abbate, Francis Sedalcowski, Vicki Addison, Scott Sanders, Vance Kessler, John Bonato, David Krow, Ricky Bear, Timothy Pearson ("I think the episode was called 'Bond of the Beast'"), Richard Campbell ("It was entitled 'The Man Beast'"), Kevin Elliott, Jim Rhodes ("Man-Beast", concerning experimental descents in a diving bell in which Capt. Crane turns into a half-crazed creature.")

our most pun-fouled article? host to say... **DR. PAUL BEARER**

AND THEY SAID Seymour, the late Ghost Host, was bad.

And Zacherley, the original Mad Man of Terrorvision.

But you ain't Hurd nothin' yet, Hatfield, till you've laid your ears on the outrageous puns of... Dr. Paul Bearer.

The squeaking door closes and this video poisonality does El Groucho croucho thru the gloom to his uneasy chair. "I bought it from the Badwill store," he explains.

He continues: "Good evening, fright fans. . . I've been lurking for you . . ." and another chapter of Fright Theater is underway. (Earlier in the day the apPauling doctor has welcomed all

monster maniacs to a spooktacular double terror treat on "Creature Feature".)

fear warning

Before you read any further we feel it only fair to advise you that there are approximately 2000 puns in this article—which is rather extraordinary, considering there are only 1000 words in it. The first 100,000 readers correctly counting the number of puns will receive a free guest appearance on Dr. Bearer's new show, "Tran-



The Mad Doctor consulted Kong and learned that music hath charms to soothe the savage beast, so he got himself a Frankenstein-way piano and is here seen practicing "Where the Boo of the Night Meets the Ghoul of the Day". (Note that at no time during the performance do his fingers leave his hands.)



They say home is where you hang your head so this must be Paul's pad. In a closer look at his spider web we spy his pet spider, Spinjamen Bock.

sylvanian Roulette; or, You Bet Your Life". Each contestant gets to lay his head on the guillotine and see if he can beat the falling blade. (Prizes have not been announced since so far no one has beat the blade.)

the witching horror

Late last year, Dr. Paul Bearer celebrated his 4th anniversary in the Tenement Castle as Monster Of Scaremonies for "Creature Feature" seen in St. Creaturesburg, Florida, and "Fright Theater", seen Satyr Day nights. His celebration included using a Betty Crocker cake mix to bake a shocklate slayer cake with whipped scream icing, toasting the event with a glass of mold duck wine, checking his horroscope (which to his delight predicted a bad day) and opening gifts: a bottle of Die Karate after-grave lotion from his pet spider, Spinjamen Bock, and a Fruit Of The Tomb tee shirt from his worst ghoul fiend, Witch Hazel, who flew in on her broom for the occasion and crashlanded thru the picture window. This caused considerable pain.

Dr. Paul Bearer is the alter ego of Dick Ben-nick of Cypress Gardens, Florida. He got the

idea for the Doctor while working in TV in North Carolina and spent 6 years playing the part there. When he moved to Florida he took his character with him and was an immediate success. According to the rating services, the show has enjoyed an average of 75% increase in audience for the past 4 years, proving "a little horror now & then is relished by the heast in men".

creepy corn-test

Every year Dr. Paul Bearer holds a Fright Gallery contest where the viewers submit drawings & paintings to hang in the Chamber of Horrors. Also each spring there is the Miss Invisible Woman Beauty Pageant with the loveliest girls you never saw vieing for the coveted title, crown & arm bouquet complete with real arm. Mummy's Day is always a special occasion around the Tenement Castle as well as the Fearth of July when everyone is treated to a fabulous display of fearworks including scar-rocketts & Houses on Fire (real houses). At Thanksgiving he doesn't like to have the same old roast tomh turkey because occasionally he likes to get a new one.



"The Late Bruise Lee recommended it to me."



Everybody warned him he'd come to a bad end if he read PM... and what do you know—THEY WERE RIGHT!

Of course Halloween is the biggest & best horrorday in the year and Dr. Paul Bearer gets in his 1963 Cardiac Corpse DeVille hearse and makes between 25 & 30 personal appearances thruout central Florida.

shatterday evening ghost

Dick's wife Susan is the commercial artist for the show. Her handiwork turns magazines into *Bleeders Diejest*, *Better Tombs & Gore-Dens*, *Photo Prey*, *News Shriek*, *Growling Groans* and *Famous Moon Stars*.

"Just recently," Dick said, "she made me a set of bear feet overnight. I couldn't do the show without her. She does all the artwork, plays all the stray parts (arms, legs, hands a specialty) such as Witch Hazel and even works on the production grue—er, crew."

goryspondence

Should you write a fun letter to this person and be unlucky enough to receive a reply, the response might read something like this:

Thank you for your fang mail. I was reading a copy of *Good Hearsekeeping* when the U.S. Ghost Office delivered your letter. It was real bad to hear from you.

Since you have taken the trouble to scratch out a letter to me with your boil point pen, I shall try to tell you a little bit about myself, even tho I had a pretty stiff day at the Undertaking Parlor. I don't really like to work there but where else can I go to work and find my work all laid out for me?

As a small boy I appeared in many of the early Lassie movies, such as *BEN CUR*, *THE MUMMY'S CURS* and that all-time Horrowwood classic, *Dr. JACKEL & MR. HOUND*. These movies were made shortly after I graduated from V.M.I. . . . The Vampires Monsters Institute. After that, I appeared on many of the better-known terrorvision shows like *Goon Smoke*, *Scary Mason* and of course *Poison To Poison*. It was during that time that I worked with such stars as Judy Goreland, Perry Coma, Scary Grant, Shock Hudson, Red Skeleton, Gory Lewis, Blob Hope & Dinah Sauras. Most of these shows were directed by either Alfred Hunchback or Cecil B. DeKill.

After that for awhile I donated my time to the Black Cross. I used to give classes in second aid . . . to be used after first aid fails.

One day I was reading the noosepaper and spotted an ad for the perfect house for me . . . to haunt. Naturally it was a haunt add, describing the Tenement Castle of Fright Theater. Living there is pretty knife work, if you can get it. ("Who was that lady I saw you



They wanted to give him a hearse of a different color but he insisted on black—to match his humor. But there is blood-red carpeting throat and the gashboard is complete with a scale tape player.

eating with!" "That was no lady, that was my knife.")

There's always plenty to eat . . . Hungarian Ghoulish, Rice Cryptics, Mourn Flakes, Ghost Toasties, Shrouded Wheat and for desert Logan Bury or Grue Bury Pie.

I like to celebrate all the holler days and particularly enjoy Easter ache hunts & New Fears Eve.

I enjoy most sports like beastball, casket-ball and hide & go shriek. Like most teenagers, I like shock & roll music but my all-time favorite song is "Hearst.".

Well, fangs again for writing but I'm afraid it's time for me to go to work again. I work the graveyard shift you know.

One of Dr. Paul Bearer's most prized possessions is a complete collection of every issue of **FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND** going all the way back to issue #1.

"This maggotscream," he said, "has played a horribly important part in the development & success of *Creature Feature*."

As he finished his 4th anniversary *Fright Theater* program, Dr. Paul Bearer took a final sip from his detective cocktail (featuring a private eyeball), leaned back in his coffin and, as the lid creaked showily shut, said, "Goodnight, pleasant screamsss."



The Phantom of Florida relaxes between coffin spells with obscure magazine which is believed to have appeared once in 1958 and was never heard of again.

THE END . . . and not a moment too soon!

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MONSTER MAKE-UP LAB



MUMMY LAB This inexpensive kit contains everything you need to change your face into the grotesque face of The Mummy. First you apply facepaint, then cotton (included), then facestuff again and allow to dry. Safe. Buy \$2600/\$1.98



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WEREWOLF KIT If you dig the life of a werewolf, then this is the kit for you. It contains ten black claws, a set of ugly red fangs which fit over your actual teeth, a genuine baring and a can of scarstuff for making a pug werewolf's nose. As a wolf need \$2009/\$3.45

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1. What is your favorite MONSTER MOVIE? _____
2. Who is your favorite MOVIE MONSTER CHARACTER? _____
3. What is your favorite SCIENCE FICTION MOVIE? _____
4. What is your SECOND favorite SCIENCE FICTION MOVIE? _____
5. What is your favorite FAMOUS MONSTERS magazine cover? FMI _____
(see back-issued on pages 54 & 55 in this issue)
6. How many times have you seen STAR WARS? _____
7. How many times have you seen CLOSE ENCOUNTERS? _____
8. Who is your MOST FAVORITE character in STAR WARS? (check one only)

<input type="checkbox"/> Luke Skywalker	<input type="checkbox"/> Ben Kenobi	<input type="checkbox"/> C-3PO
<input type="checkbox"/> Princess Leia	<input type="checkbox"/> Darth Vader	<input type="checkbox"/> R2-D2
<input type="checkbox"/> Han Solo	<input type="checkbox"/> Chewbacca	<input type="checkbox"/> Stormtroopers
9. Who is your SECOND favorite character in STAR WARS? (check one only)

<input type="checkbox"/> Luke Skywalker	<input type="checkbox"/> Ben Kenobi	<input type="checkbox"/> C-3PO
<input type="checkbox"/> Princess Leia	<input type="checkbox"/> Darth Vader	<input type="checkbox"/> R2-D2
<input type="checkbox"/> Han Solo	<input type="checkbox"/> Chewbacca	<input type="checkbox"/> Stormtroopers
10. Who is your THIRD FAVORITE CHARACTER IN STAR WARS? (check one only)

<input type="checkbox"/> Luke Skywalker	<input type="checkbox"/> Ben Kenobi	<input type="checkbox"/> C-3PO
<input type="checkbox"/> Princess Leia	<input type="checkbox"/> Darth Vader	<input type="checkbox"/> R2-D2
<input type="checkbox"/> Han Solo	<input type="checkbox"/> Chewbacca	<input type="checkbox"/> Stormtroopers
11. How many years have you been reading FMI? _____
12. Do you have FAMOUS MONSTERS #162 [our 20th Anniversary Issue]? ☐ Yes ☐ No
13. If so, what was your favorite article in FMI #162? _____
14. Name 3 OTHER magazines (or comics) you buy regularly. _____

15. What is your FAVORITE TV SHOW? _____
16. What is your SECOND FAVORITE TV SHOW? _____

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and a black smudge at the bottom) 220.00

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he's on his way to stardom--

THE FAN OF A THOUSAND FACES

 **MARIO
ANTHONY
CHIODO.**

Remember the name.

You saw it first in FM.

And, at 16, Mario is determined to become a Famous Monster.

He started at 6!

Yes, at the age of little Cary Guffey of CLOSE ENCOUNTERS fame, Mario began displaying his artistic talent. "We discovered him sketching some unusual & grotesque faces," his proud parents told FM. "At first we didn't know what to make of it but his work was so advanced for one so young that we encouraged him."

"Throughout grammar school," Mario remembers, "my mind was flooded with ideas of art but I just couldn't find the way to express myself properly."

"Finally one day I was standing in front of a newsstand and the magazine FAMOUS MON-



The Picture Inc. net of
Dorian Gray, of Mario
Chioldi that proves the old
Adage: "A Thing of Beauty
...is a Joy Forever!"



When Mario Goes Age with His Makeup Age-apiances, this is the interesting result: Simian Simons!



Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Witch? Everybody who sees this Makeup by Mario, that's who!

STERS OF FILMLAND attracted my attention. I picked it up. I turned its pages. I was overwhelmed by what I saw. There's that famous line of Claude Rains' in *THE INVISIBLE MAN*: 'The drugs I took seemed to light up my brain!' Well, FM set my mind on fire without any artificial or harmful stimulants. I felt instantaneously that here were the subjects I could use to express my talents. It was a turning point in my life for I came to realize that finally I had discovered my world—the world of horror & fantasy.

'My early days as a makeup artist were spent locked in the bathroom for hours transforming myself.

flesh gorgon strikes again

'One technique I used was to apply wet bathroom tissue to my face to obtain a rotting flesh look. Once, when I walked into our backyard, still in makeup, the neighbors thought some kind of beast was a-prowl and threatened to call the police!

'As time passed I read professional books on the art of stage & screen makeup. In the 5th grade I produced a film based on the Frankenstein legend. My friends were the cast and, of course, I was the monster. My teacher was im-

pressed and gave me much encouragement. It was because of this, I believe, that my grammar school principal suggested to my parents that I be sent to a special Art-oriented school. There I developed my talents, concentrating on sculpture, painting & stage makeup. Half-seriously I was called the reincarnation of Michaelangelo, after my friends learned I had the same birth date as the famous sculptor & painter.

terrorvision debut

'At the age of 12 two exciting things happened in my life: I met Mr. Bob Wilkins, host of the *Creature Features* TV show (I made myself up as the Wolfman and was interviewed on this show).

'Also, my admiration for the talented Mr. Vincent Price lead me to sculpt his head, which was displayed at school art exhibits. The reason this was so exciting was that everyone recognized it was Mr. Price without having to be told!

'For the next 3 years I studied very hard. But, as I approached the age of 15, I kept asking myself 'Where am I going from here? What's my ultimate goal?' I was depressed. Then one night, while watching *Creature Features*, something happened which turned my life around.

'The son of one of my great inspirations, Mr.

Bela Lugosi Jr., appeared. He told Mr. Wilkins that he would be at a local bookstore the next day to autograph a book about his father written by Robert Cremer called 'Lugosi, the Man Behind the Cape'. I went to see Mr. Lugosi Jr. and showed him some of my work. He was impressed and asked why I wasn't doing makeup professionally. I simply stated, 'Because nobody knows me!'

rings the bell with Bela Jr.

"Then occurred one of the joys of my life. I asked him if he would like me to sculpture a head of his father and he was delighted. I worked very hard on the head and presented it to Mr. Lugosi Jr. later in the year. He was most impressed with it and with some fotos of my makeup. He thought it all was very professional. This praise was like a shot in the arm.

"Then, during the conversation, he suggested I contact Forry Ackerman to obtain his opinion.

encounter with the ackermonster

"I never thought the day would come when I would meet the editor of the magazine which so greatly influenced my life & goal. My trip to Hollywood and tour of Forry's chamber of horrors will never be forgotten. Most of all I'll never forget the hospitality he showed me & my parents and the enthusiasm with which he regarded my scrapbook.



Invincible lives again after 3700 years in the person of Mario Chiodo.



Mario Chiodo puts finishing touches to one of his monstrous creations. He made a present of a similar Gargoyle to the Ackermuseum of Filmonster Memorabilia.



Mario Chiodo as Quasimodo: a teenage Cheney!

"Today I know that I am capable of working with my idols like Mr. Price, Karloff, Lugosi & Chaney Sr. My great dream is that I become not only a makeup artist but also an actor."

the editor speaks

We at FM are proud of our fans who have risen from the ranks to make their mark as professionals in the film & TV industry as actors, directors, makeup artists, filmmakers etc. To name but a few:

Jim (Animator) Danforth, Rick (Monster Maker) Baker, Steven (CLOSE ENCOUNTERS) Spielberg, Stephen (CARRIE) King; Mark Hamill, George Stover & Paul Day (Actors); Special FX men Dennis Muren, Jon Berg; Doug Jones, David Allen, Greg Jein, Jim Aup-

perle, Phil Tippett; Bill (Model Maker) Malone, George (STAR WARS) Lucas, (Director) John Landis, (Makeup) Joe Blasko, (Research) Phil Riley, (Scripter) Don Glut, (Posters) Cathy Hill, (Producer) Steve Barkett... and many more.

Mario Anthony Chiodo is, we feel, another of those rising young talents in the field (also like bound-to-score model-maker Jim Dore) who is going to make FM proud of having nurtured his early interest in the fascinating world of imagi-movies. One of Mario's monsterrific Gargoyle heads already graces the Ackermuseum and has caused much favorable comment. He is currently sculpting a likeness of Eric, the Phantom of the Opera, for the Filmmonster Museum of Hollywood (chez FJA).

Watch these pages for further developments on Mario Anthony Chiodo!

a "ce3k" puzzle **MUSIC OF THE SPHERES**

PUZZLED, that's what reader Vince Sicurella says he is regarding one aspect of CLOSE ENCOUNTERS.

And we must admit it hadn't occurred to us nor so far have we noticed anyone else raising the question.

Why, Vince wants to know, did the Mothership use musical communication with humanity's representatives rather than speaking verbally in our language?

"Considering the technology demonstrated by the aliens," he reasons, "isn't it logical they would have studied our language? After all, they had at least 33 years to learn ...

judging from the fact of the missing WW2 pilots who were returned with other (kidnapped) people from around the world. Why, then, would the aliens have to communicate thru the use of musical notes?"

He goes on the conjecture that maybe it was just because it was a very emotional & important scene in the picture. He concludes: "I hope it's not just because someone wanted a hit record like the film's counterpart STAR WARS."

Perhaps Stephen Spielberg will note this query and respond.

END



The Earth Scientists greet the Aliens with a game of Musical Chairs.

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SEE THEM PEER AT YOU FROM THE PAGES OF FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND. THE HEADLINES CRY THEIR NAMES... ORACULA, FRANKENSTEIN, WOLFMAN, THE MUMMY, KING KONG AND THE GREAT ACTORS... LON CHANEY JR. AND SR. BELA LUGOSI, BORIS KARLOFF, CHRISTOPHER LEE. LEARN ABOUT OLD AND NEW MOVIE FAVORITES THAT ARE CURRENTLY BEING RELEASED! THESE HORRIFYING ISSUES CAN BE YOURS... ORDER NOW!

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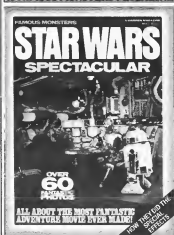
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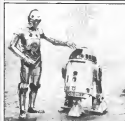


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FEATURES



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FINAL

DEAD-LETTER EDITION

EDITOR, JEFF ROVIN

THE MUMMY'S TOMB

Match the treasured answers in the tomb of the Mummy with the following questions.

1. Name of the Mummy who appeared in six Universal pictures.
2. Actor who played Hammer film's 1959 Mummy.
3. Actor who played Universal's 1932 Mummy.
4. Karloff Mummy's alter-ego.
5. Actor who played the Mummy in The Mummy's Hand.
6. Leaves used to raise people from the dead.
7. Actor who played the Mummy in The Mummy's Tomb.
8. Actor who played the High Priest Yuseef Bey in The Mummy's Ghost.
9. Name of the Mummy in Abbott and Costello Meet the Mummy.
10. Actor who played the Mummy in Abbott and Costello Meet the Mummy.
11. Mummy film from Mexico—The _____ Mummy.
12. Actor who battles the Mummy in Hammer's The Mummy.
13. Egyptian princess in The Mummy's Hand.
14. Name of the Mummy in Curse of the Mummy's Tomb.
15. Director of Universal's 1932 Mummy film.
16. Actor who played High Priest in The Mummy's Hand.
17. Scroll of _____—used to raise the god Osiris from the dead.
18. Actor who played the Mummy in Curse of the Mummy's Tomb.
19. Director of Hammer's The Mummy.
20. What Kharis loses in The Mummy.

THE RH FACTOR

There are 36 words, names, or titles of movies hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards and forwards in this diagram. They all have one thing in common: all are in some way related to the films of Ray Harryhausen. See how long it takes you to find them. Our expert, Sonny F. Kong, did the puzzle in 10 minutes.

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Centaur | Cyclops | Gwangi |
| Harpies | Nauthus | Sokurah |
| King Kong | Zeus | Myserious Island |
| Rey Harryhausen | Flasca | Kerwin Methews |
| Mighty Joe Young | Ginossur | Gullivar |
| Willis O'Brien | Tumak | Lom |
| The Elementals | Kali | Talaa |
| The Lost World | Trog | Solanita |
| Ymir | Hydra | Coal |
| Animal World | Jeeon | Eyer |
| Skeleton | Golden Voyage | Sinbad |
| Rec | Tiger | S.C. |

K T A N I M A L W O R L D O O L O M
I G N A W G R U B H O W B F T E Y
N O T E L E K B O S C O A L H N S
G V G K A M U T G U L L I V E R T
K I J L W I L L I S O B R I E N E
O P T R O G S E L E N I T E L R R
N E S U A H Y R R A H Y A R E E I
G B I G R T D I N D S A U R M G O
H C N U C Y C L O P S W Y H E I U
A S B M E J A S O N A T Z Y N T S
R O A V C O C E N T A U R O T F I
P L O H E E Y E R S O K U R A H S
I A K C E Y M I R M H R K A L I L
E T H E L O S T W O R L O C S O A
S A M T F U S M A S U L I T U A N
K E R W I N M A T H E W S F E O O
S U E Z E G A Y O V N E D L O G M

WHICH WITCH?

Unscramble the following movies about witches.



DSUKAYLBCNA
UNEYLBATPSOEI
OWEAHODFZRIIZ
TACIRDWMHIEIRA
CHTHWEH
FRCTWATCHI
UNWBTHRIBCRNU
HANOTHEPLTEUACAE
ECTNGEHOURLWOMROR
EMCNNIKSOGTWIFHIHETS

GWHIZ

Below are enough letters to create the names of six famous movie monsters. Every name begins with a "G"; use each letter only once.

GGGGGGGG/0000/AAAAA/DD/LL/S/III/N/
HH/T/RRR/MM/EE/Z

THIS UFO IS OUT-OF-ORDER

Rearrange these events from the motion picture CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND so that they appear in the same order as in the film.

1. Jillion Guiler sees Devil's Tower on television.
2. Roy Neary's toy train falls from the track.
3. Mrs. Harris points a hair dryer at Roy.
4. Lacombe greets an alien face-to-face.
5. Roy tells a soldier that he is not a looter.
6. Lacombe studies a group of abandoned Avenger aircraft.
7. Barry Guiler's record player starts by itself.

ANSWERS

Answers: Devil's Tower, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, The Day After Tomorrow, The Thing, The Blob, The Beast from Twenty Thousand Fathoms, The Thing.

GOT A COLD?

OUT-OF-ORDER

THIS UFO IS



THE NUMPY'S TOMB

GWHIZ

Answers: Devil's Tower, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, The Day After Tomorrow, The Thing, The Blob, The Beast from Twenty Thousand Fathoms, The Thing.

WHICH WITCH?

Answers: Devil's Tower, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, The Day After Tomorrow, The Thing, The Blob, The Beast from Twenty Thousand Fathoms, The Thing.

MONSTERS OF THE MONTH



ROBBIE HOWELL



KEVIN SURNEAR



MARK GRATMAN



BRAD VAUGHAN



VINCENT COLATRANO



JOE JACK

GOT A COLD?

In which five films were the featured creatures either discovered in or destroyed by ice?

- The Thing [1951]
The Beast from Twenty Thousand Fathoms [1953]
The Blob [1956]
Giantella the Fire Monster [1957]
The Deadly Mantia [1957]
Gorgo [1961]
Raptilecia [1963]
Konga [1961]
Creature from the Black Lagoon [1953]
Tobor the Great [1954]



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BOBBY RENTA

SHORT SUBJECTS

The 20th Anniversary issue was absolutely fantastic, especially Hoo-Ray for Harrywood, Guide to Monsterland & the full color foto of the Gill Man on the backcover—John R. Gray Jr. It will not soon be forgotten—Jeff Walker. The Arkoff Story, Vader Story & Harryhausen Story were delightful. The House in the Twilight Zone was superb along with the Star Trek article—Robbie Richardson. I know you won't print this because I'm not very lucky I've written a dozen times before and never got a letter printed—Parker Anderson. Unequaled even by the Karloff Special (#56). I counted 196 Famous Fiends. A landmark issue that I am sure will become as rare as a foto of the Invisible Man. The Force has been with FM since 1968 in the person of Forry Ackerman—Joe Hammell. Eljay lives in Hollywood and says he reads all the fanmail personally. However, all the letters are sent to a New York address. You tryin' to pull a fast one on us?—M Harackiewicz "who is not easily fooled" (Have you ever considered that letters might be forwarded from the New York publisher's office to the California editor's office? Considering the state of the mail, 'tis not a fast one we're pulling on you but a slow one.) It's true I haven't been a fan of yours since the beginning but I have a legitimate excuse, I hadn't been born yet.

(What kind of an excuse is that? You could have faked it!) But I'm not really sad that I wasn't around to pick up #1 on the newsstand, I'm just glad that I'll be around to buy the next 140 or so!—John Keyes.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR PAST

Well, another year has come & gone and I'm sure that a long time from now people will look back on 1977 and STAR WARS, CLOSE ENCOUNTERS etc. and say "it was a good year." In terms of fantastic flicks it certainly was.

Throughout the year, horror/sci-fi films were drawing audiences to movie houses. A good deal of these were low budget programs ranging in quality from awful to fairly good, among them THE CRATER LAKE MONSTER: a low budget animated flick; TENTACLES, an awful AIP film; DEMON, a watchable but confusing low budget sci-fi—er—but I could go on & on. There were plenty of standard horror/monster films: RUBY, DAY OF THE ANIMALS, SUSPIRIA, EMPIRE OF THE ANTS, GODZILLA VS. THE COSMIC MONSTER, all of which were decent, watchable films—as long as they stayed where they belonged. at the lower end of a double bill. Included in the "fantastic" dept of this year were a bunch of offbeat films (THE LITTLE GIRL WHO LIVES DOWN THE LANE; EQUUS; OH, GOD; KENTUCKY FRIED MOVIE, WIZARDS, FANTASTIC ANIMATION FESTIVAL), some TV movies ("Spec-tral", "The Hulk", "It Happened at Lakewood Manor", "Snowbeast", etc.), some re-

issues of old films (the 1953 WAR OF THE WORLDS & WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE; "R" rated versions of such previously "X" rated films as ANDY WARHOL'S DRACULA & FLESH GORDON, BARBARELLA, IT'S ALIVE, etc.), and some sadistic exploitation films (AUTOPSY, EATEN ALIVE, THE HILLS HAVE EYES & RABID).

While many of the foregoing films were disappointing, unsatisfying or just plain terrible, 1977 is still one of the best years since FM began. Aside from bombs like EXORCIST II, there was always some satisfying fare around, even in non-horror films like THE DEEP, ORCA or the TV version of "The Hobbit".

In 3d place: SINBAD & THE EYE OF THE TIGER. Never mind that the script, acting, photography, direction & staging were a bit weak; what can you say about a Ray Harryhausen movie in which the master animator brings to life an oversized baboon, a yard-long wasp, a minotaur, a giant walrus, a troglodyte, 3 insect ghouls & a sabre-toothed tiger, except WOW!

#2: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND. There will be a few lists of the top 10 sci-fi films in the future that don't or won't include this film. Probably the best fantastic film made since JAWS, which goes to show Steven Spielberg's talent.

I consider it to be one of the finest films of any kind I've ever seen. The scene in which the 3 UFOs suddenly soar a few feet over the heads of some astonished onlookers (pictured on FM #140's cover) really blew my mind and the climax was a triumph of moviemaking & special effects.

#1: STAR WARS. There are very few superlatives I could say about this one that haven't been said already. Let's just say that I can't think of a single movie I'd rather give the honor "highest-grossing movie in film history" to, and since that is exactly what STAR WARS is, I think this distinction is well deserved.

All in all, the year 1977 was as good a year for fantasy fans as any other, with the possible exceptions of 1931 & 1933.

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